FF Special Retirement Coverage

Standard Position Description (SPD)#	F	1	82	

Certification of <u>CSRS Primary (FF)</u> coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed OPM general coverage certification letter dated 07/29/91.

Certification of <u>FERS Primary-Rigorous (FF)</u> coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed DOI general coverage certification sheet dated 10/02/91.

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SUBJECT TO DRUG TESTING

*Interchangeable based upon primary vegetation of the unit.

25. Description of Major Duties and Responsibilities (See Attached)

Range/Forestry Technician, GS-455/462-5 Hotshot Squad Leader Position No. F182

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in a BLM fire suppression organization. The purpose of the position is to serve as a squad leader within an organized firefighting crew. Organized crews are normally composed of two to three squads of five to nine firefighters in each squad. However, the number of employees in a squad may differ widely. The primary duties are fireline construction and the repair and maintenance of firefighting tools and equipment. Other incidental duties relating to the fire program or other resource programs may be assigned during stand-by periods.

Although the employee serves as a squad leader, the positions led vary continuously. The Squad Leader is not a "lead" on a continuous basis for three or more people.

DUTIES

A. The primary purpose of this position is to serve as a squad leader for a group of firefighters. Provides work direction for firefighters assigned to the squad. Analyzes fire conditions and determines attack methods within area of responsibility as assigned by the crew leader/supervisor. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment, and techniques while actively suppressing wild fires. Locates line, directs and participates in line construction, backfire and burnout, hose layout and pumping, tree falling, and holding/patrol/mop-up operations. Performs routine emergency repairs for power tools and equipment in field situations.

On multiple squad fires, coordinates the squad's operations with the crew leader.

May be assigned for short periods of time to coordinate the work of multiple squads.

B. Functions in the positions for which qualified during prescribed burns. May serve during firefighting emergencies in other SOF or Incident Command System (ICS) positions for which trained and qualified.

As assigned, functions as an Initial Attack Incident Commander on small fires.

- C. Participates in the maintenance and repair of firefighting equipment and tools. Receives firefighting training. Participates in readiness drills.
- D. In normal occurrence fire seasons, may spend 10-20% of the time on other fire related duties such as fire prevention, collecting fire management data, and participating in safety sessions and fire critiques.
- E. May spend approximately 10% of the time on other resource program activities and projects.

FACTORS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position

Knowledge of (1) firefighting methods, tactics, and procedures, (2) wildfire Federal and State agency internal guidelines and practices, and (3) firefighting tools and equipment maintenance and repair procedures are required to lead the assigned crewmembers in suppression activities.

A general knowledge of the use of aircraft in fire suppression activities is required.

Basic knowledge of fire behavior and the effects of wind, slope, and fuels on fire is required.

Knowledge of safety precautions in fire suppression situations is required.

It has been determined that the employee in this upper level crewmember position must have (1) prior line firefighting experience and training to perform the duties of the position, and (2) prior hand crew experience. Ability to serve as a lead fire suppression crewmember is required.

Must possess a valid state driver's license.

Ability to communicate effectively with others in emergency situations in field locations.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls

The supervisor makes firefighting and other assignments indicating what is to be done, priorities, limitations, quality and quantity expected, and deadlines. Normally the supervisor or work leader briefs the crew each morning on fire situations, anticipated actions, and specific crew assignments for the day. Training has been provided on normal firefighting methods, procedures, tactics, and hand crew operations. Additional guidance and direction is provided for new, difficult or unusual assignments.

As a squad leader, the employee uses initiative in carrying out recurring assignments independently determining routes to travel, use of tools land equipment, and type of maintenance and repair duties necessary. The supervisor/work leader is consulted in more complex fire situations or in situations where normal procedures will not produce the desired results.

The supervisor/work leader reviews the assigned work ensuring that safe and efficient methods are used and that the crew is in a fire readiness status. Project fire and non-fire related work is reviewed by the responsible coordinators periodically and/or upon completion dependent upon the difficulty of the assignment.

Factor 3, Guidelines

Procedures for performing the firefighting duties have been established, were included in training sessions, and for some parts of the work are available in printed materials, e.g., equipment operation and maintenance guides. Due to the limited size and type of fires normally encountered independently, the employee's alternatives in taking action are normally limited to well established procedures with only minor adjustments being applicable. The

supervisor/work leader is readily available by radio or in person if a more difficult situation is encountered.

Factor 4, Complexity

The work consists primarily of leading and working with crews on the fireline and in maintaining fire equipment and tools. Because of the crew size and equipment capability, decisions relating to what type of suppression methods and procedures to apply to specific situations are limited. It is essential that the employee be capable of sizing up and analyzing fire situations and recognizing the need for and requesting additional assistance in those situations exceeding the crew's limitations. The actions taken vary with the capabilities of crew(s) and equipment, fuel types, fire weather conditions, and the resource values concerned.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect

The purpose of the position is to serve as a squad leader during firefighting and equipment maintenance and repair activities. The work performed by the squad contributes to the effectiveness of the firefighting organization in suppressing wild fires and protecting resource values.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts

The personal contacts are normally with other employees in the fire suppression organization although some contacts occur with other resource personnel in carrying out specifically assigned project work and with the general public in performing fire patrol assignments.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts

The purpose of the contacts is to obtain information, give directions, provide information, clarify assignments, coordinate work efforts, and, upon occasion, resolve operating problems.

Factor 8, Physical Demands

This firefighting position requires strenuous physical labor on a recurring basis. The employee must meet the established step test and arduous physical requirements for the position.

Factor 9, Work Environment

This position includes recurring field assignments with exposure to various terrain, weather, smoke and fire conditions. Special safety precautions and the use of safety equipment are required.